

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-57 are all the claims currently pending.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 17-22, 26, 27, 31, 32, 36, 37, 41-43, 46, 48, 51 and 53 have been amended and claims 54-57 have been new added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response To Minor Informalities

The Applicants note that the Examiner did not yet indicate that the certified priority documents have been received. Additionally, the Examiner indicated receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement mailed on June 27, 2004, but retuned only a partially initialed PTO-1449 Form. The Applicants respectfully request correction in the next Office correspondence.

III. Response To §102 And §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16-22, 26, 27, 31, 32, 36, 37, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Grayson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,217, hereafter Grayson). Claims 2, 3, 6, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayson in view of Kiraly, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,511, hereafter Kiraly). Claims 4, 5, 8, 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Grayson in view of Hikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,944, hereafter Hikawa). Claims 23-25, 28-30, 33-35 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayson in view of Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,479, hereafter Chang). Claims 43-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayson in view of Hikawa and Zhou et al. (EP 1083536, hereafter Zhou). The Applicants traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

A. Claims 1, 10 And 17-20

The common feature of the claimed invention defined by claims 1, 10 and 17-20 is directed to the display of a text string to be spoken by synthetic voice in a different text display form, which distinguish each text string corresponding to each speaker image. To this end, the appearance (for example, color, font or size) of a text string to be spoken is different for every speaker image.

In contrast, in column 8, lines 50-53 (Fig. 7) in Grayson, text is displayed in a text section, while user-input graphics are displayed in a graphics section. However, as shown in Fig. 7, appearances of each of text displayed in the text section is the same (such as size and font) for each of the user-input graphics.

Therefore, the arrangement in Grayson is different from the feature of claimed invention noted above.

B. Claim 2

The feature of the claimed invention defined by claim 2 is directed to retaining display correspondence information showing a correspondence between each of a plurality of speaker images and the display form of a text string. According to the display correspondence information, the appearance (for example, color, font or size) of a text string to be spoken is displayed differently for every speaker image. In this way, a user can readily confirm correspondence between a speaker and a spoken text string.

In contrast, Kiraly discloses a display sample for displaying an image as shown in Fig. 3. This display sample indicates an image for explaining the meanings of terms that appear in text to be spoken, rather than a speaker image that reads the text. Further, a highlighted portion in the image indicates a current reading position in the text, which would be irrelevant to the speaker image in the claimed invention.

Further, Kiraly discloses enabling the change of color of the text to be spoken or highlighting of terms in the text according to kinds of a text to be spoken. However, this arrangement is applied to all text to be displayed at once, and does not display a plurality of text portions to be displayed with different appearances as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, the arrangement in Kiraly is different from the claimed invention noted above.

C. Claims 21, 26, 31, 36 And 41-42

The common feature of the claimed invention defined by claims 21, 26, 31, 36 and 41-42 is as follows:

dividing information including letter information and image information, into a synthetic voice portion with animation images and a display portion displayed as the letter information and image information;

obtaining information relating to contents of the display portion, and

controlling a position in which the animation image is displayed, based on the obtained information to present the synthetic voice portion and the display portion.

According to the claimed invention, positions of the synthetic voice portion and the display portion are controlled so that they are prevented from overlapping one another, based on information and image information relating to the contents (importance of and need for hiding of letter information and image information presented together with the animation image) of the display portion, thereby making it possible to present information more effectively.

In contrast, in column 6, lines 20-35, Fig. 5a in Grayson, a position of character (corresponding to an animation image of the claimed invention) is controlled using an input movement command, rather than information derived from contents of display portion displaying letter information together with the animation image.

Therefore, the arrangement in Grayson is different from the feature of the claimed invention.

D. Claims 43, 48 And 53

The common feature of the claimed invention defined by claims 43, 48 and 53 is directed to presenting information showing the switching of the genre using animation images corresponding each of the genres before and after switching, when user's instruction for switching of genre is received for presenting genres sequentially. To this end, the switching of the genre can be readily confirmed.

However, Hikawa and Zhou do not teach or suggest the feature of the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4776.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4776.

Respectfully submitted,
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